



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Raised Bill No. 515

LCO No. 2014

02014_____HED

Referred to Committee on Higher Education and Employment
Advancement

Introduced by:
(HED)

AN ACT ADDRESSING THE NURSING SHORTAGE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 Connecticut nursing incentive program administered by the
3 Department of Higher Education.

4 (b) The department shall provide financial assistance to four
5 regional community-technical colleges that enter into partnerships
6 with hospitals, as defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, as
7 amended, or other health care institutions, as defined in said section
8 19a-490, to secure private funding to increase the number of faculty
9 members at such regional community-technical colleges that are
10 qualified to teach or train students to become licensed registered
11 nurses.

12 (c) A regional community-technical college seeking such assistance
13 shall submit to the Department of Higher Education its nursing faculty
14 expansion plan, together with a commitment agreement signed by its
15 hospital or health care institution partner or partners. Prior to

16 providing any assistance pursuant to this section, the department shall
17 determine that the amount of private funding secured by the regional
18 community-technical college and its partner is at least equivalent to the
19 amount of the assistance provided pursuant to this section. A regional
20 community-technical college that receives assistance pursuant to this
21 section may continue to receive such assistance, at the discretion of the
22 department, based on the number of students enrolled in the nursing
23 faculty expansion program and the number of students graduating
24 from such programs.

25 (d) Not later than ninety days after the effective date of this section,
26 the Commissioner of Higher Education shall adopt regulations, in
27 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes,
28 establishing guidelines for the operation of the incentive program
29 authorized by this section.

30 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this
31 section, the combined dollar value of assistance provided pursuant to
32 this section shall not exceed seventy-five thousand dollars per regional
33 community-technical college.

34 (f) For the fiscal years ending June 30, 2004, and June 30, 2005, the
35 Department of Higher Education may use up to two per cent of the
36 funds appropriated for purposes of this section for program
37 administration.

38 (g) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Commissioner of Higher
39 Education shall submit a status report, in accordance with the
40 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the establishment
41 and operation of the incentive program authorized under this section
42 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
43 cognizance of matters relating to education, public health and higher
44 education and employment advancement.

45 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
46 Connecticut nursing faculty incentive program administered by the

47 Office of Workforce Competitiveness.

48 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide
49 grants to institutions of higher education that work collaboratively
50 with hospitals, as defined in section 19a-490 of the general statutes, to
51 establish or expand nursing education programs that qualify a person
52 who successfully completes such program to teach or train nursing
53 students to become registered nurses.

54 (c) Not later than ninety days after the effective date of this section,
55 the Commissioner of Higher Education, in consultation with the
56 Executive Director of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness, shall
57 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of
58 the general statutes, establishing guidelines for the operation of the
59 incentive program authorized by this section.

60 (d) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Office of Workforce
61 Competitiveness shall submit a status report, in accordance with the
62 provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the establishment
63 and operation of the incentive program authorized under this section
64 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
65 cognizance of matters relating to education, public health and higher
66 education and employment advancement.

67 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Department of Higher
68 Education shall conduct an assessment of the capacity of the state
69 system of higher education to educate and train students seeking to
70 become licensed practical nurses or registered nurses. Such assessment
71 shall include an examination of (1) the number of faculty members
72 employed by each institution of higher education that are qualified to
73 teach nursing students, (2) the number of nursing students that can be
74 accommodated by each institution of higher education, (3) the number
75 of nursing students admitted to each institution of higher education,
76 (4) the number of nursing students that have graduated from each
77 institution of higher education with a nursing degree, and (5) any
78 barriers to graduation for nursing students enrolled at an institution of

79 higher education.

80 (b) Not later than January 5, 2005, the Commissioner of Higher
81 Education shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
82 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on the results of such assessment
83 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
84 cognizance of matters relating to public health and higher education
85 and employment advancement.

86 Sec. 4. (*Effective from passage*) The sum of three hundred thousand
87 dollars is appropriated to the Department of Higher Education, from
88 the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004, for the
89 program established in section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To address the state's nursing shortage.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]